

**FMS
Newsletter
January 2017**



FLOSSMOOR
MONTESSORI SCHOOL

February 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 Elementary Parent's Evening 6-8PM	8 Elementary "Going out" Composers with Courage	9 Parent's Evening 6-8 PM Pre-Primary and Primary	10	11
12	13	14 Teatime Tuesday 10-11AM	15	16 Grandparent's Day	17 Staff Institute Day No School	18
19	20 President's Day No School	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Elementary Black History Month Program 10-11 AM				

We hope everyone had restful winter break and we welcome you back wishing Happy 2017.

Children have returned from break, eager to get to work. They have been engaged in lot of big work at all levels. We welcome our youngest friends in Young Toddler class (15-24 months). I have the joy of spending mornings with them and Ms. Anna-Maria in their environment. We introduce different fruits and vegetables to children. We introduced our youngest (15-36 months) and oldest (Elementary) children to papaya today. They were amazed seeing papaya from inside. They also enjoyed touching the soft peel and holding the slippery seeds. We shared it with Elementary children and talked about where it grows. Please inform school of any known sensitivity to food or natural products that your child may have so needed precautions can be taken.



Children start their day at FMS with changing into indoor shoes and washing hands. Children in Pre-Primary and Primary get instructed on how to blow their nose and cover their mouth while coughing. Please work with them at home on reminding proper hand washing and covering their mouth while coughing. Ms. Lauren has shared some ideas to aid in independence at home. **Child with profusely runny nose and coughing should stay at home to help with the recovery. It will also assist in keeping other children healthy at FMS.**

Thank you for your cooperation with occasional delay using our new Sign in-out system on **ClassNotes**. There have been times that the system freezes up and support team is working on fixing the problem. Directresses will continue to send classroom related updates and any specifics on your child's work in the classroom using **ClassNotes**. We will not be sending out weekly paper memos as necessary updates will be communicated to FMS parents using **ClassNotes**. Please make sure to have access to our new communication system, it also allows us to send pictures now. If you have difficulty signing in please send email to support@primets.com.

How do you Montessori at Home?

Some ideas to aid in independence at home



Toilet Learning Station

Have a stool where they can change, a collection of clean bottoms that are easy to get on and off, a stack of cloths to wipe up accidents, a hamper for accident clothes and a potty chair. This same concept is great for pajamas and school clothes. Placed available for the child to choose and dress themselves in. It is best to have a small selection available.

At Their Level

It can be as easy as command hooks! Have your child's boots and coat at their level so that they can independently get ready. When this isn't possible, have a step stool available for them to reach what they need.



Help Around the House

Allow for some extra time to get chores done, and let your child help you. They love to be involved. They will be learning many valuable skills while enjoying bonding time with you.

Build their vocabulary as you are going. "This soap is slippery, those bubbles are glistening, this plate is reflecting light" Talk about opposites, "This plate is large, this one is small. This pot is heavy, this glass is light"

News From The 2s

Welcome back all! I hope everyone had a wonderful break. Thank you all so much for coming out to our winter celebration. Next month we have Parent's Night and Grandparent's Day which will give you all a chance to get a tour of the classroom from your children as well as work on some materials with them. We will be beginning some baking projects, so practical life requests will be going home soon. We are back to outdoor recess now that the temperature is staying above 20 degrees. On warmer days, we have lots of mud on the playground! Please send in shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting muddy. If you send in snow pants, the children will wear those to protect their pants from the mud, and they will go home on Friday's to be washed.

Happy 2017! - Ms. Lauren



Travelling World of Reptile returns to FMS for our Winter Field Trip. Children are looking forward to meet some of the reptiles they are familiar from the last two annual visits.

From Primary Classroom

In preparation for our visit by the Reptile Show we have been focusing on the 5 animal families of vertebrates and other science lessons in zoology. The older children have stretched their reading and writing skills to begin some research in this area. The younger children are hearing the

Vocabulary in the classroom and are showing an increased interest in animal work.

Our new classroom pet is a female fancy hamster. She doesn't have a name as of this writing but will soon after we take a vote. The children will begin to learn to respect and care for her, and she has an exercise ball that will eventually take her on trips throughout the classroom in the afternoon.



We welcome a few students who have transitioned out of nap and have, or will soon be, joining the classroom after lunch. After turning 4 a child becomes a candidate for this but occasionally, and if unusually ready, a student may be invited to do this earlier.

Conversely it may work out for a student to continue napping for a longer period if it felt that this is best. Welcome also to Chandler who will be transitioning from Pre-Primary into Primary Level in February.

Please continue to send your child to school in boots until the end of boot season (you will get a notification in ClassNotes). The yard is soggy and chilly even though there is no snow on the ground now. Shoes will not be warm or secure enough for a while still. We try to get outside as often as we can but are limited by rain lately. Yoga, imagination-story-time and imagination-riddle-time have been popular late-day activities during these periods.

We will be celebrating Valentine's Day in the classroom on Tuesday, February 14th. If your child would like to bring valentines that day to share please have them start working on signing their own name (if they can) only. Do not address to whom the valentines are to be delivered. Our class count will be at 24. May you all have a sweet time on that day.

We look forward to Parents' Evening. Come and see some of what your child has been working on. In order to focus on your student, it would be ideal to leave siblings at home. Your child will have a list of several materials to choose from to show you in the time allotted though you may not get to the whole list. This event is Open House format, come when you can during the slated hours. See you then.

Nan

Elementary News

Happy New Year to all the Flossmoor families! We're back to school, and work is in full swing.

We celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by sharing our dreams for the community, ourselves and the world. We also watched the famous "I have a dream" speech, and discussed topics like prejudice, equality and justice. Please check out the poster created by Elementary in school foyer.

Thanks to Mr. Schott who got us a Worm Factory 360, a vermicomposting system. We learned about compost, red wigglers and lots more. He has graciously offered to bring in a colleague, Dr. Angela Hung next week to talk about how the system works.



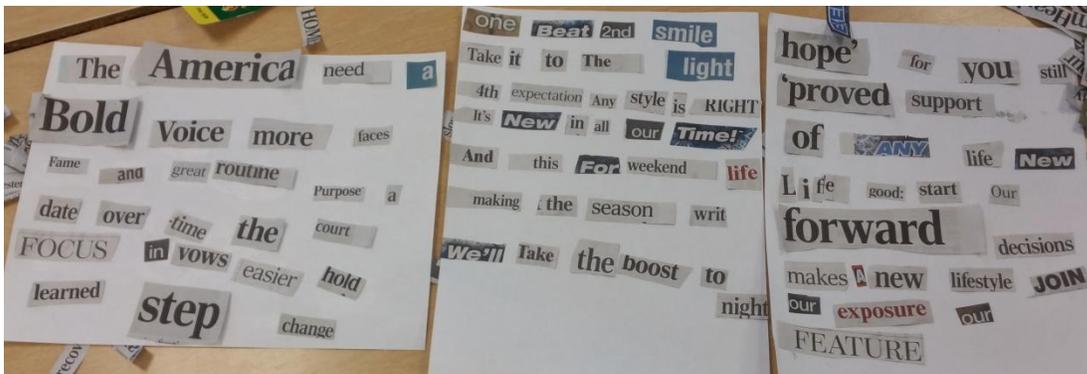


Some of our children did some presentations of work they did during the winter break.

Our younger children are making leaps in areas such as mathematics and language. Some of our children also have taken to research, and writing to pen-pals.



Dominic, our music teacher, did a fun activity with the children where they make songs with words from a newspaper.



Cooking is still the most favorite activity in class. We now have a sign-up sheet where children can sign up and bring ingredients to cook that day.

We're looking forward to planning more field trips and events in our classroom.



Sometimes, some of our younger children show interest in learning something more advance. Seen here is a student exploring the periodic table.

The Reptile Show is on Friday, and our children are excited about (hopefully) meeting Sunny, the friendly Burmese python.

Grandparents Day is on the 16th, and we hope we get to meet the grandparents of all our students. They will get to work with the children during the school day, and stick around for refreshments prepared by our budding culinary artists of FMS.

Community Events:

Home Sweet Homewood Chocolate Fest

Saturday, February 18, 2017 | 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

H-F Park District Auditorium, 2010 Chestnut Road

Indoor Farmers Market

January 28, February 25, March 25, April 29 in 2017

8:00 AM to Noon at Marie Irwin Center, 18120 Highland Ave, Homewood, IL 60430

Chinese New Year celebrations: According to the Chinese calendar, 2017 is the Year of the Rooster. Head to Chinatown for Lunar New Year parade on **Sunday, February 5** to celebrate at the area's annual parade, which will feature a marching band, traditional dragon, lion dances and decorative floats.





Lost and Found:

After school care children had fun creating the sign for Lost and Found placed close to their room. Please check for any missing item that is not marked with your child's name. We will keep the item for three weeks and if no one claims for it we will donate it to local charities. Mark your child's belongings with his/her name using a permanent marker. It will be very helpful to locate the missing item.

Save the Date!
Sunday March 5th
2:00-4:00 PM

Flossmoor Montessori School Art Show and Auction

Come, view and bid on art created by FMS students, as well as donated arts and crafts. This year we will also be collecting donations of a variety of other Auction items. Some examples of donations: Gift baskets, Gift Certificates from Restaurants, or Gift Certificates for local services. Reach out to your network and see who may be willing to donate goods or services to be auctioned off to benefit the installation of air conditioning at our school! We will begin collecting to auction item donations the last week in February.

We need your support for the supplies to create art projects for Children's Art show and Auction. Please donate any of the following items: White ceramic tile, Colored Sharpie markers, felt, shiny varnish, Yarn, fabric for making child size aprons, small canvas for painting. Please call or email to inform us about how you would like to participate. My sincere appreciation to FMS parent volunteers for organizing family events and fundraising for installation of air-conditioning at school.

Parents' Evening:

Please note different date for Elementary to accommodate parking for all parents.

Elementary Parents – Tuesday, February 7 from 6:00 to 7:00 PM

Pre-Primary and Primary Parents - Thursday, February 9 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM

Young Toddlers' Parents – Thursday, February 9 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Parents will visit the classroom with their child to observe her/him working with the materials. This has been one of the popular event for children at FMS as they want to show their work to their parents.

Attendance is mandatory for Parents new to FMS and parents who have not attended previous parent's evening. There will be \$25.00 fee to the parents who have not attended any meetings (Parent handbook page-16). You will have the opportunity to speak with other parents and directress. Pre-Primary parents may visit Primary classroom after 7:00 PM. We will have "Grand Parent's Day" on February 16 for grandparents and special person to visit the classroom and experience the child's work.

